Burmese students-refugees problem

2532. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Burma's Junta Government has urged the Indian Government to keep the Burmese students-refugees away from the border for good trade relationship between the two countries as published in an English local paper "Manipur News" in Manipur;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government; and

(c) whether the Burmese students refugees' problem will not affect the relationship between Indian and Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, the Government of Myanmar has, from time to time, expressed concern over the activities of Myanmar nationals residing in the north-eastern states bordering Myanmar. The State Governments concerned have been requested to take appropriate action against anyone found to be engaging in activities violative of our laws. The Governments of India and Myanmar have agreed to work together to develop cooperative relations.

सड़कों के निर्माण में फ्रांस द्वारा सहायता

2533. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:**
प्रो. रामबक्ष सिंह वर्मा:

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि फ्रांस भारत में सड़कों के निर्माण के लिए वित्त और प्रौद्योगिकी उपलब्ध करवाएगा; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस संबंध में दोनों देशों में किसी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये हैं; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) और (ख) इस स्तर पर फ्रांस की सरकार ने इस क्षेत्र में वित्तीय परियोजनाओं की पेशकश नहीं की हैं। 1 फरवरी, 1999 को भारत सरकार के जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय और फ्रांस की सरकार के लोक निर्माण, आवास तथा परिवहन मंत्रालय के बीच एक आशय-प्रोतोकोल पर हस्ताक्षर हुए, जिसमें भारत में सड़कों के निर्माण के क्षेत्र में प्रौद्योगिकी के आदान प्रदानों सहित द्विपक्षीय सहयोग के लिए रूपरेखा की व्यवस्था है।

Threat to India due to International Terrorism

2534. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:
SH. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Asian Age of December 21, 1998, captioned "India, US, Israel on Bin Laden's hitlist"; and

(b) if so, what steps have been and are being taken by Government to fight international terrorism out-fit headed by Bin Laden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government maintain a consant vigil to thwart the anti-India designs and activities of any terrorist or terrorist group.

Partnership documents between India and Russia

2535. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken in pursuance of the strategic partnership document signed between India and Russia during the Russian Prime Minister's visit to New Delhi in December, 1998;

(b) the details of the expansion in different areas of cooperation between the two countries over what existed prior to the new document under the 'Friendship and Cooperation Treaties' of 1971 and 1993 and the new areas if any opened under it;

(c) whether similar documents have been signed by Russia with China, Japan and other countries in this subcontinent, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No strategic partnership document was signed during the visit to India in December 1998 by the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. However the Joint Press Statement issued at the conclusion of that visit states that India and Russia intend to move towards strategic partnership, which will be confirmed during their next Summit level meeting by the signing of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation.

(b) The close, friendly and time-tested ties with Russia are based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding. Our multifaceted cooperation with Russia is progressing well, encompassing political consultations, economic and commercial relations including in important sectors like power, steel, oil, coal and information technology and cooperation in science and technology, culture, peaceful uses of atomic energy, space and defence. India and Russia have reaffirmed their determination to impart a qualitatively new character and long-term perspective to their multifaceted ties and actively develop them into the 21st century.

(c) Russia has not signed a "Declaration on Strategic Partnership" with China, Japan and other countries in the subcontinent.

Fresh initiatives to strengthen economic ties

2536. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to develop and strengthen economic ties with developed and developing countries during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether curbs imposed by USA and other developed countries and World/ International organisations have been reviewed recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of fresh strategies finalised for the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government attaches high priority to the development of our economic and commercial relations with all countries. India has endeavoured to develop closer economic relations with various developed and developing nations bilaterally as also through various international/multilateral fora. This includes, *inter alia,* meaningful participation, in the activities of World Trade Organisation (WTO), various agencies of the United Nations, SAARC, G-15, G-77 etc. A special effort has been made to enhance India's economic engagement with countries of ASEAN under the ASEAN-India Full Dialogue Partnership. Participation in other regional fora such as Indian Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and Bengladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) also supports our international economic and commercial initiatives. India's economic linkages with countries in Africa have been strengthened through bilateral dialogues as well as with their regional economic groupings.

In addition, high-level bilateral visits, frequent exchange of business delegations and participation in fairs, exhibitions and seminars as well as Joint Commission meetings and other consultations provide new economic opportunities, which strengthen our ties with various countries.

(c) After the nuclear tests by India, the United States had imposed certain restrictive economic measures. Measures announced by some other countries related mostly to developmental assistance or concessional loans. Some of these countries have variously exempted assistance related to humanitarian, poverty alleviation, food and basic human needs from these measures. G-8 countries had decided not to oppose loans by international financial institutions which are meant to meet basic human needs. In July 1998, the US Congress passed an amendment, called the Agriculture Export Relief Act of 1998 which exempted financial assistance for purchase of food, medicines and other agricultural commodities from the purview of these measures. In November 1998, the US Administration announced partial relaxation of